

CLAIMS

1. A side-mirror apparatus for automobile to be drawn out to a drawn-out position when in use so as to obtain a field of view in a rear direction of an automobile and to be stored when not in use, the side-mirror apparatus for automobile characterized by comprising imaging means, disposed at an outer casing of the side-mirror apparatus, for obtaining a field of view in a direction substantially orthogonal to a field of view of the side-mirror apparatus.

2. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 1 characterized in that:

the imaging means is an electronic camera attached to substantially an end portion of the outer casing,

wherein an image captured by the electronic camera is displayed by display means inside an automobile.

3. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 1 or claim 2 characterized in that:

an image is captured by the imaging means according to a command signal from operation means; and

the image is displayed inside the automobile using display means.

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4. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 1 characterized in that:

a field of view in a side direction of the automobile is obtained using the imaging means when the side mirror apparatus is in the drawn-out position and a field of view in a rear direction is obtained using the imaging means when

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the side-mirror apparatus is in a stored position.

5. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 1 characterized in that:

5 a field of view in a rear direction is captured by the imaging means and displayed inside an automobile using display means when a start of an operation of opening a door is detected while the side-mirror apparatus being in a stored position.

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6. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 1 characterized in that:

the imaging means captures an image of inside and outside of the automobile and sends the image to a monitor
15 apparatus at a remote position via communication means.

7. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 6 characterized in that:

an image of the inside of the automobile is captured
20 and sent the image to a monitor apparatus at a remote position via communication means when the side-mirror apparatus is in a stored position.

8. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 6 characterized in that:

25 a sensor is provided for detecting an abnormality of the automobile,

the imaging means captures an image in conjunction with the sensor detection and,

30 the captured image is transmitted by transmission means.

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9. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 6 characterized in that:

the imaging means captures an image in response to a monitoring command signal sent from outside, and

5 the captured image is sent by a transmission means.

10. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile to be drawn out to a drawn-out position when in use and to be stored when not in use, the side-mirror apparatus for automobile
10 characterized by comprising:

a first side mirror for obtaining a field of view in a rear direction of an automobile when in use; and

a second side mirror provided substantially on an end portion of an outer casing of the side-mirror apparatus.

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11. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 10 characterized in that:

the second mirror obtains a field of view to the rear when the side-mirror apparatus is in the stored position.

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12. The side-mirror apparatus for automobile according to claim 10 characterized in that:

the second mirror is a convex mirror.